



## Education e-Newsletter, December 2013

### News

**Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB) Environmental Education Grants Available.** The Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB) is seeking proposals for the 2014-2015 grant cycle. The Board anticipates awarding \$75,000 for general environmental education grants, \$55,000 for water education grants, \$90,000 for forestry grants, and \$90,000 for school forest grants.

Proposals are due February 15, 2014. For an application packet or more information about the program see the Board's website (<http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/weeb/Pages/default.aspx>) or contact Ginny Carlton, Administrative Specialist, at 715-346-3805, email: [weeb@uwsp.edu](mailto:weeb@uwsp.edu).



**Winter Free Fishing Weekend.** Bundle up and get outside for Wisconsin's Winter Free Fishing Weekend, January 18 - 19, 2014. **Residents and nonresidents are welcome!** Fish anywhere in Wisconsin without a license or trout stamp on Free Fishing Weekend. This includes all inland waters and Wisconsin's side of the Great Lakes and Mississippi River. Other fishing rules apply, such as limits on the number and size of fish you can keep and any seasons when you must release certain fish species. So, pack up the family or call your friends and head to the water for ice-fishing fun!

#### **Attend a Free Fishing Weekend event!**

Organizations are busy planning clinics and activities for a fun weekend. Scheduled events are posted on the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) web site, <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/anglereducation/FreeFishingWeekend.html>



**Start the New Year as a Green & Healthy School!** Green & Healthy Schools Wisconsin is a certification program designed to recognize a school's achievements in reducing environmental impact, improving health and wellness, and increasing environmental literacy. The original Green & Healthy Schools program design, launched in 2004, prescribed a three step process that schools had to move through in order to get certified. The program has recently been revamped. The new program design which was re-launched last year focuses on the outcomes, rather than the process.

Wisconsin was one of five states in the country to be awarded a grant from the EPA's Office of Children's Health Protection. This grant provided funding to support the redesign of the program and workshops for schools. Twelve introductory school workshops were held around the state. Additional curriculum-focused workshops will be offered this spring. Watch for workshop announcements and dates in future newsletters. Read more about the Green & Healthy School Program at EE in Wisconsin.  
<http://eeinwisconsin.org/net/content/go.aspx?ran=52415&s=111080.0.16.2209>

## **Resources**

**Fourth Grade Teachers – Tree Seedlings Available for Arbor Day.** The DNR is once again providing tree seedlings to fourth grade classrooms. The order deadline is March 15. Start planning your Arbor Day celebrations and go online to place your seedling order, <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/TreePlanting/arborForm.asp>



**Trees of the Midwest – There’s an App for That.** "Fifty Trees of the Midwest" is a handy tool for students, science teachers and Master Gardeners. This mobile-device is backed by the expertise of Purdue Extension forestry specialists. More than 400 high-quality color photos show the leaf, bud, twig, flower, fruit, bark and form of more than 50 trees and include pop-up definitions. Users can enlarge the photos for a closer look. Among the app's features is the ability for users to identify a tree by taking their own photos of it and then compare them side-by-side to photos in the app. They then can answer a series of questions to narrow the possibilities of the type of tree until they identify it. The app, for iPhone and iPad, costs \$3.99 and is available at the App Store.



**Air Quality Education.** Learn more about the health effects of air quality at the Environmental Protection Agency ([http://www.epa.gov/airnow/air-quality-guide\\_pm\\_2013.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/airnow/air-quality-guide_pm_2013.pdf)) and log on to DNR’s [Air Quality Education and Outreach](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/AirQuality/Outreach.html) (<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/AirQuality/Outreach.html>) page to view and download resources available free of charge for preschool through adult audiences!

## **Educational Opportunities**

**Plan Ahead For Your Spring Professional Development.** LEAF, Wisconsin’s K-12 Forestry Education Program, has a variety of high-quality professional development opportunities planned for spring, including “Forestry Education in the Wisconsin K-12 Classroom” and “Human Influence on Wisconsin’s Forests.” LEAF courses are offered online or in a hybrid format, and can contribute to your PDP or be taken for graduate

credit from UW Stevens Point. Limited scholarships are available — go to [www.leafprogram.org](http://www.leafprogram.org) for more information.



**Learn to be a Fly Fishing Instructor.** Fly Fishing Instructor certification will be offered on Saturday, February 1, 2014, at the Wisconsin Trout Unlimited's Annual Statewide Meeting in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

Trout Unlimited members, fishing club members, youth leaders, classroom teachers, and civic leaders are encouraged to attend as a team or form one at the workshop. Workshop participants will receive free materials that they can use to introduce beginning anglers of all ages to basic fishing skills and help lead adventures in local water resources activities. Fishing equipment and other supplies are available for loan to instructors at the DNR's 52 tackle loaner sites, including 100 St. Croix fly rods and reels that are distributed among 15 of the sites, <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/anglereducation/index.html>.

More information on this and future workshops can be found at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/anglereducation/index.html>



**Happy Holidays. We hope you find time to get outdoors and play.**